

# **Movin' On Up- MS to HS Transitions**

## **WHAT DOES TRANSITION MEAN?**

- ❖ Different school environment
- ❖ Higher maturity
- ❖ More freedom
- ❖ More responsibility
- ❖ New people
- ❖ More clubs, extra curriculum, more choices
- ❖ More rigorous courses (higher education)
- ❖ Move to higher grade level
- ❖ Move from oldest to youngest
- ❖ Different schedule
- ❖ Emotional/physical change

## **THE HARDEST PART OF TRANSITIONING IS.....**

- Not knowing how to study/do homework/be responsible
- Academies...you transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> and then have to transition again
- Need upperclassman friends...could accomplish that in clubs/extracurricular activities
- Grades 7-12 in same building/no help with transition
- Finding my way

## **I WISHED MY SCHOOL WOULD...**

- Be harder/teachers would expect more
- Communicate more with my parents and me about grades and classes
- Tell me in middle school about AP classes, weighted classes, dual credit, etc.
- In K-8 school give the middle schoolers more responsibility
- “Group” me with kids like me so I could learn more, move on and not have to deal with low expectations
- Give me a “hands-on” tour of the high school
- Let me get to know high school teachers before school starts
- Let me shadow high schoolers
- Make middle school more like high school/teachers should have less control
- After CATS test is wasted time, make it high school ready time
- Make the high school more welcoming/look more cozy
- Give assessments in middle school to help me decide which classes I should take
- High school teachers come to middle school and talk
- Give me map and schedule before school starts
- Form joint clubs with middle/high school students and have meetings over the summer to help transition.
- Let Beta Club mentor students

- Middle school curriculum “stepped up” at end of year to prepare
- High school preparatory classes mandatory
- High school teachers start out easy and work up harder
- Invite middle schoolers to high school sporting events
- Fashion show for middle schoolers put on by high school students to show dress code
- Looping-8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades and 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The teachers knew me and helped me transition easier
- Have high schoolers peer tutor middle schoolers
- Make a class that 8<sup>th</sup> graders take that introduced high school options
- Let high school students talk to 8<sup>th</sup> graders about high school courses instead of counselor. They know more about the classes.
- Have ability level testing for high school classes
- High school athletes mentor middle school athletes
- Give rewards for performance on CATS test

#### **THIS WORKED FOR ME:**

- Freshman academy-only 2 hallways for freshman
- ACE class for freshman/allows freshman to meet with upperclassmen
- Tates Creek 101 is a class on how to survive high school
- Being involved in high school sports as a middle schooler
- FAME-students at Dixie Heights had a mentor at the high school who helped them transition
- Orientation Day-kids met with mentors (5-6 kids per mentor). The high schoolers called them over summer and introduced themselves and invited them to Orientation Day.
- High schoolers go to middle school to talk to kids
- Pep Rally and orientation during summer led by high school students
- Clubs/Band had camp in summer which allowed middle schoolers to bond with high schoolers
- Freshman retreat during summer